



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767

Telephone 512/854-9400

Telefax 512/854-4206

JOSÉ P. GARZA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TRUDY STRASSBURGER
FIRST ASSISTANT

District Attorney Announces Indictments Against Law Enforcement Officers

Austin, TX -- Today, Travis County District Attorney José Garza announced the return of three indictments against three law enforcement officers, arising out of two separate incidents, which were presented to a grand jury and will be prosecuted by the Office's Civil Rights Unit.

On Wednesday, December 16, 2020, the Grand Jury returned a two-count indictment charging Travis County Sheriff's Office Corrections Officer Shannon D. Owens with the felony offenses of Aggravated Perjury, Tex. Penal Code § 37.03, and Tampering with a Governmental Record with the Intent to Defraud or Harm Another, Tex. Penal Code § 37.10. Mr. Owens' case will be prosecuted and is currently pending in the 450th Judicial District Court for Travis County, Texas.

On Wednesday, January 20, 2021, APD Officers Gregory Gentry and Chance Bretches were indicted for the felony offense of Aggravated Assault by A Public Servant, Serious Bodily Injury/Deadly Weapon, a first degree felony under Section 22.02(b) of the Texas Penal Code by the 147th Special Grand Jury – Extended July 2020 term. These cases will be prosecuted and are pending in the 299th Judicial District Court. The 147th Special Grand Jury also returned a no bill on a third officer related to this incident.

“With respect to the aggravated assault indictment, I am grateful to the Assistant District Attorneys who identified potential misconduct and brought it to the Office's Civil Rights Unit,” said Travis County District Attorney José Garza. “Holding law enforcement accountable when they break the law is critical to rebuilding community trust, and also to the safety of our community.”

#####